

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air "Stolen Honor,"
an anti-Kerry
agit-prop film, days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. Airing an
attack ad that the
station presents as
a documentary will
not do that. The
film in question is
designed to
manipulate viewers
emotionally, not to
inform them
properly. It is
being aired to
persuade viewers to
serve the ends of
the Sinclair
Broadcasting Group
and its board, whose
financial and
geopolitical
interests are not
necessarily
congruent with the
viewers' own.
Because Sinclair's
market penetration
is so encompassing,
they will thereby be
able to weaken the
legitimacy of the
democratic process
and undermine the
principles for which
our troops now fight
and die.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.